



Old and New

Recap

Where does **truth** come from?

Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an **angel from heaven**, who preaches a **different kind** of **Good News** than the one we preached to you. [Galatians 1:8](#)

Recap

Post Modern Cults

Problem with the world/yourself, health, productivity, wealth

Can't **trust** information, it has been corrupted or manipulated, people (big Pharma, government, corporations, etc) don't want you to know

“I have learned”, “I have discovered”, “I can show you... (the ‘guru’ has **special knowledge**, at a cost)

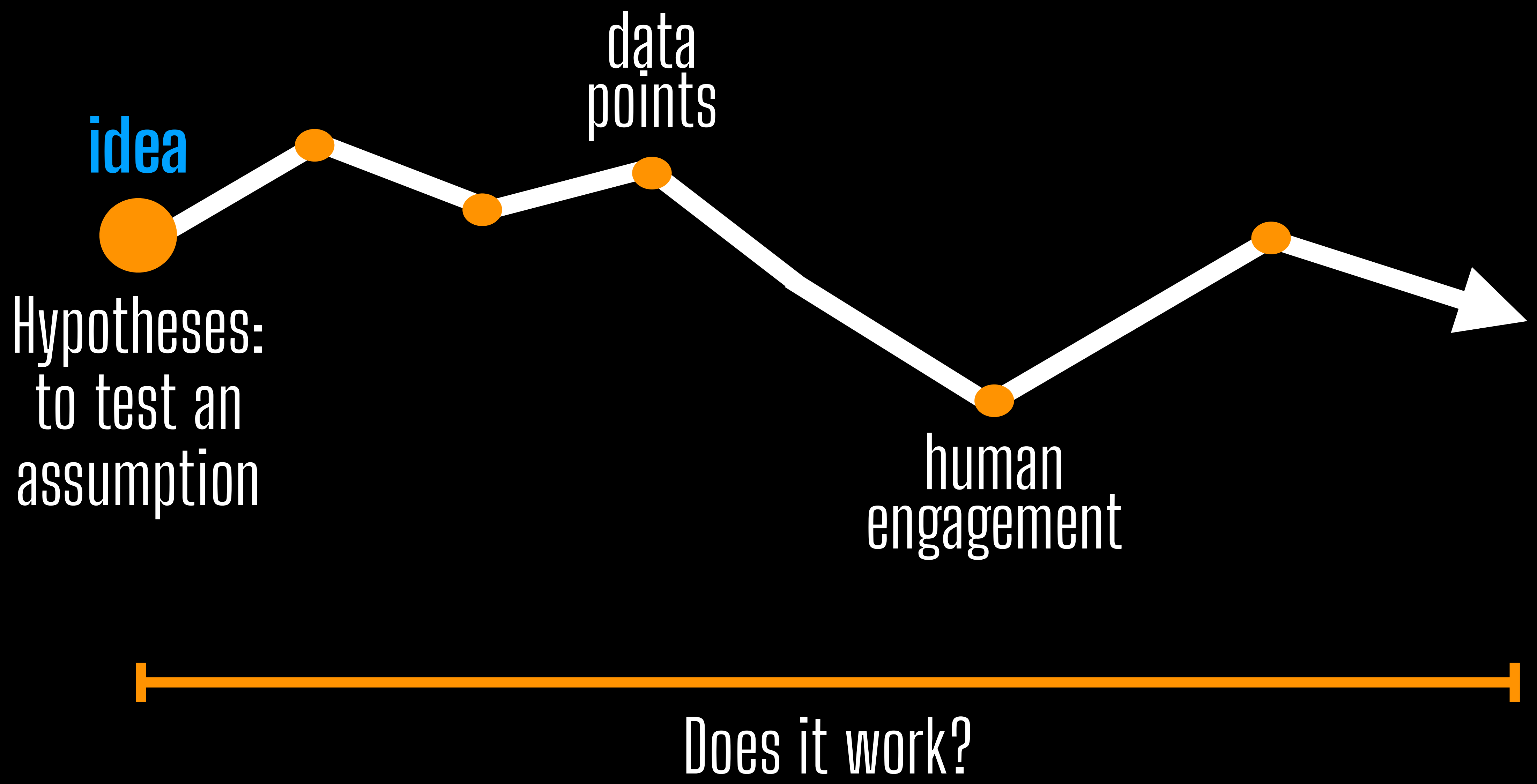
* Christian version is use Christian-ese language to show solution with the idea that God wants you happy and prosperous

Recap

And he (Jesus) added, “God blesses those who do not **fall away** (offended/stumble) because of me.” [Matthew 11:6](#)



If Jesus is not **all**, the enemy will provide cheap **substitutes**



God created **life** to be a **spiritual experience** within the material world. To say that we do not experience God or do not come into contact and experience spiritual things, paranormal events, or have a deeper knowing that something else is going on behind the scenes would not be fair to most of our life experiences. Even for those who do not profess the Christian faith, the majority of humanity acknowledges that **life at its core is spiritual**. Brent Jospeh

You can look up the word spiritual in every book of the Old Testament, from the first book, Genesis to the last book, Malachi, you will not be able to find it there. Why? Because in the ancient Hebrew **worldview**, **ALL** of life is **spiritual**. [Jesus.net](https://www.jesus.net)

Most American adults self-identify as Christians. But many Christians also hold what are sometimes characterized as “**New Age**” beliefs – including belief in **reincarnation, astrology, psychics** and the presence of **spiritual energy** in physical objects like mountains or trees. Many Americans who are religiously unaffiliated also have these beliefs. Overall, roughly six-in-ten American adults accept at least one of these New Age beliefs. [Pew Research Center](#)

Pew Research surveyed Americans to see what they thought about the following four New-Age beliefs: 1) spiritual energy exists in physical things, 2) psychics have reliable insight into the future, 3) reincarnation and 4) astrology. Not only did 62% of the general public hold at least one of these New Age beliefs, **61% of professing Christians** held one as well.

A three-year international research project, directed by two academics at the University of Oxford, finds that humans have **natural tendencies** to believe in gods and an afterlife.

The £1.9 million project involved **57 researchers** who conducted over **40 separate studies** in **20 countries** representing a diverse range of cultures. The studies (both analytical and empirical) conclude that humans are **predisposed** to believe in gods and an afterlife, **Humans 'predisposed' to believe in gods and the afterlife, University of Oxford**

There is nothing that is spiritually **neutral**

Cults offer **certainty** in uncertain times

New Age offers **peace** in chaotic times

Why do the nations say, “**Where** is their God?” Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. They have mouths, but **cannot speak**, eyes, but **cannot see**. They have ears, but **cannot hear**, noses, but cannot smell. They have hands, but **cannot feel**, feet, but **cannot walk**, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them **will be like them**, and so will all who trust in them. [Psalms 115:2-8](#)

The new age movement is an **eclectic** combination of many different psychological, philosophical, and religious ideas from around the world. It emerged after the countercultural hippy movement of the 1960s and began to truly blossom by the 1980s.

The New Age is essentially **humanistic** psychology eighties style, with the addition of neo-shamanism, channeling, crystal and herbal healing, and this sort of thing. **Terence McKenna, Ethnobotanist and psychonaut**

The original driving force behind the new age movement was to liberate humanity from the **dry, rigid, life-denying**, and in many cases, **dangerous** ideas propagated by **orthodox** religion.



February 1968

So, what do New Age thinkers **actually** believe? New Age Movements are very diverse, but there are a few common themes that they build on. The **two** most important are:

Self-spirituality: According to New Agers, spiritual awakening could be achieved through the exploration of the **individual** self. The aim of many New Age practices is for the individual to connect with their '**true inner self**', which lies beyond their 'socialised self'.

Detraditionalisation: New Agers rejected the **authority** of spiritual texts like the Bible and of **hierarchical** religious organizations like the church. According to New Age theory, individuals discover the truth for themselves through **personal experience**. The aim of New Agers was to find perfection **within** themselves, instead of searching for it in an external god.

Aside from these two basic tenets, there are a few other **themes** that run through the majority of New Age practices.

Nature is sacred: Inspired by ancient, pagan religions, New Agers believed in the **sacred powers of Earth**. Many practices took place in nature or taught the admiration and love of natural beings. Vegetarianism, veganism, and the ethical treatment of animals were all common themes in different NAMs.

Mysticism: The belief in mysticism, in the **psychic** abilities of certain individuals, and in the existence of the **healing** powers of **spiritual** energy, is widespread among New Agers.

Belief in destiny: New Agers tend to believe that we all have a **predetermined** fate. Hints of this **destiny** might be accessed through such practices as Tarot reading and astrology.

Holism: The belief that we are all **universally connected** is common in New Age theory.

One of the most distinctive beliefs of the New Age Movement is **monism**, the belief that all of reality is essentially **one**. From this perspective, everything that exists is part of a **single organic whole**. There are no real differences between people, between objects, or between people and objects.

monism holds that everything is **one substance**, so humanity is **no different from God**, who is no different from the grass that grows in your front yard. We are all related to each other, and we all depend on each other. Our differences are in our energy, vibrations, and abilities, but not in our value.

The “new age” is a movement that became popular in the West in the 1960s and 1970s. At that time, it carried a clear **Eastern** pedigree, drawing from **Hindu mysticism** and **Western occult teachings** that appealed to the idealist counterculture then in the ascendancy. But over the course of the 80s and 90s, virtually all **overt** signs of Hinduism faded away. New Age authors, writing for a **Christian and Jewish readership**, retained popular Sanskrit words in their books, such as chakra, but with a nonspecific spiritual connection. Cut from its Eastern roots, the still popular New Age morphed from a **quasi-religious movement** to a loose spiritual philosophy with a **strong marketing angle**, aimed primarily at women, promoting health, beauty, inner peace and successful relationships. [Rajiv Malik, Hinduism Today](#)

New Age belief is a perfect **combination** of
religious abstraction and **western narcissism**

Surprisingly (or maybe not all that surprising to you), the New Age Movement is about much more than hippies, incense, and Enya, and it's **extremely relevant** in today's world. The New Age Movement's history flows from Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, the human potential movement, and mysticism, and sometimes it's difficult to nail down what a New Age thinker might...well...think. Some might say it's a **choose-your-own-faith** type of belief system (think of someone like Oprah). That said, most New Agers believe that human transformation is possible when people open themselves up to spiritual energies that are available to every human being. [Lindsey Mendenwaldt, Mama Bear Apologetics](#)

The Hindu concept of God is ultimately **impersonal**, and any personhood is anthropomorphic. The various gods and goddesses, and the stories about them, are merely ways by which Hindus relate to an impersonal Supreme. The advaita (non-dual or monistic) schools consider the soul one with God in all respects.

The numerous deities are considered more or less imaginary, representing aspects of the formless, all-pervading world-soul (Brahman). For advaitins, God is therefore entirely impersonal, though represented anthropomorphically for our own understanding. He is nirguna (without qualities). [The Heart of Hinduism](#)

The swing to the East has come at a time when Christianity is **weak** at just those points where it would need to be strong to withstand the East. Without this strength, the Eastern religions will be to Christianity a new, dangerous **Gnosticism**, but this time, much of the fight will be lost before many see the nature of the danger. **Os Guinness**

New Age practices are similar to **alcoholism**, they are **progressive** and people crave more and more **intensity**. They may start out with something that seems **innocent**, but it always leads to **darker experiences**. **Doreen Virtue**

What Gladstone foretold is essentially what has been happening during the 140 years since he wrote those words. The result is not, as we once imagined, a secular society. It is a **pagan society**, and its **paganism**, having been born out of the **rejection of Christianity**, is far more **resistant** to the gospel than the pre-Christian paganism with which cross cultural missions have been familiar. Here, surely, is the most challenging **missionary** frontier of our time. [Leslie Newbigin](#)

Afghanistan, Algeria, **Burma (Myanmar)**, China, Comoros, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan and Venezuela remain classified as Tier 3. They are joined by Guinea Bissau and **Malaysia** in this year's report. [2021 Trafficking in Persons Report](#)

The reason why prostitutes are not viewed in a negative way in the modern Thai view, which derives from the Buddhist scriptures, is that their impurity is considered **karmic** impurity and not sexual impurity. [Sandra Avila, Buddhism and its relation to women and prostitution in Thai society](#)

as a preliminary note, it is necessary to admit that there is not such an explicit **concept** as “human rights” in classical Buddhism... Human rights are grounded on a Western form of individualism. [Human Rights Center, UniPD](#)

Until fairly recently, much of the discussion of cultural relativism (broadly, different perspectives on the relationship between ‘universal’ human rights and the ethical and social norms of diverse and particular cultures) has been conducted within a paradigm of compatibility, in which existing or historical cultures and traditions are measured against a set of overarching norms and principles encapsulated by the notion of human rights. Within this paradigm, **Hinduism** has, for the most part, fared badly. [Lynn Thomas, exploring issues of human rights in an Indian text](#)

Why is there so much **happiness** for some and **suffering** for others in a lifetime? The Gods revealed to the rishis in their deepest meditations the answers to these puzzling questions. They revealed the laws of **karma** and **reincarnation** which are now two of Hinduism's most central beliefs.

Karma is the law of **action** and **reaction** which governs life...if you cause pain to someone else, you can be certain that the same pain will come back to you. It may not return immediately, maybe not even during this lifetime.

But it will return in your next life, or even in some life after that.

Life does not end at the death of the physical body. The body dies but the soul does not. It lives on in a counterpart of the physical body which is called the astral body. This same cycle is repeated many times until the soul spiritually unfolds and reaches a certain state of **perfection** or **mature evolution**. [Hinduism Today](#)

Without suffering, you cannot grow. Without suffering, you cannot get the peace and joy you deserve. Please **don't run away from your suffering**. Embrace it and cherish it. Go to the Buddha, sit with him, and show him your pain. He will look at you with loving kindness, compassion, and mindfulness, and show you ways to **embrace your suffering** and look deeply into it. With understanding and compassion, you will be able to heal the wounds in your heart, and the wounds in the world. The Buddha called suffering a Holy Truth, because our suffering has the capacity of showing us the path to liberation. **Embrace your suffering**, and let it reveal to you the way to peace. **The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching, Thich Nhat Hanh**

Why I Don't Dig Buddhism, John Horgan, Scientific America

I've been brooding over Buddhism lately, for several reasons. First, I read that **Steve Jobs** was a long-time dabbler in Buddhism and was even married in a Buddhist ceremony. Second, a new documentary, *Crazy Wisdom*, celebrates the life of Chogyam Trungpa, who helped popularize Tibetan Buddhism here in the U.S. in the 1970s. Third, Slate magazine, for some reason, just re-published a critique of Buddhism that I wrote eight years ago, and once again Buddhists are berating me for my ignorance about their religion.

Superficially, Buddhism seemed more **compatible** than any other religion with my skeptical, science-oriented outlook. The Buddhist scholar Robert Thurman once told me that Buddhism is less a religion than a method for fulfilling human potential, a method as empirical in its way as science. Don't take my word for anything, Buddha supposedly said, just follow this path and discover the truth for yourself.

Why I Don't Dig Buddhism, John Horgan, Scientific America

One of Buddhism's biggest selling points for lapsed Catholics like me is that it supposedly dispenses with God and other supernatural claptrap. This claim is **disingenuous**. Buddhism, at least in its traditional forms, is **functionally theistic**, even if it doesn't invoke a supreme deity. The doctrines of karma and reincarnation imply the existence of some sort of cosmic moral judge who, like Santa Claus, tallies up our naughtiness and niceness before rewarding us with nirvana or rebirth as a cockroach.

Human suffering and **death** may appear laughably trivial. Instead of becoming a saint-like Bodhisattva, brimming with love for all things, the mystic may become a sociopathic nihilist (meaningless).

I have one final misgiving about Buddhism—or rather, about Buddha himself. His path to enlightenment began with his **abandonment** of his wife and child.

If God is **impersonal**...

Then your **lot** in life (suffering) is because of your own **choices**...

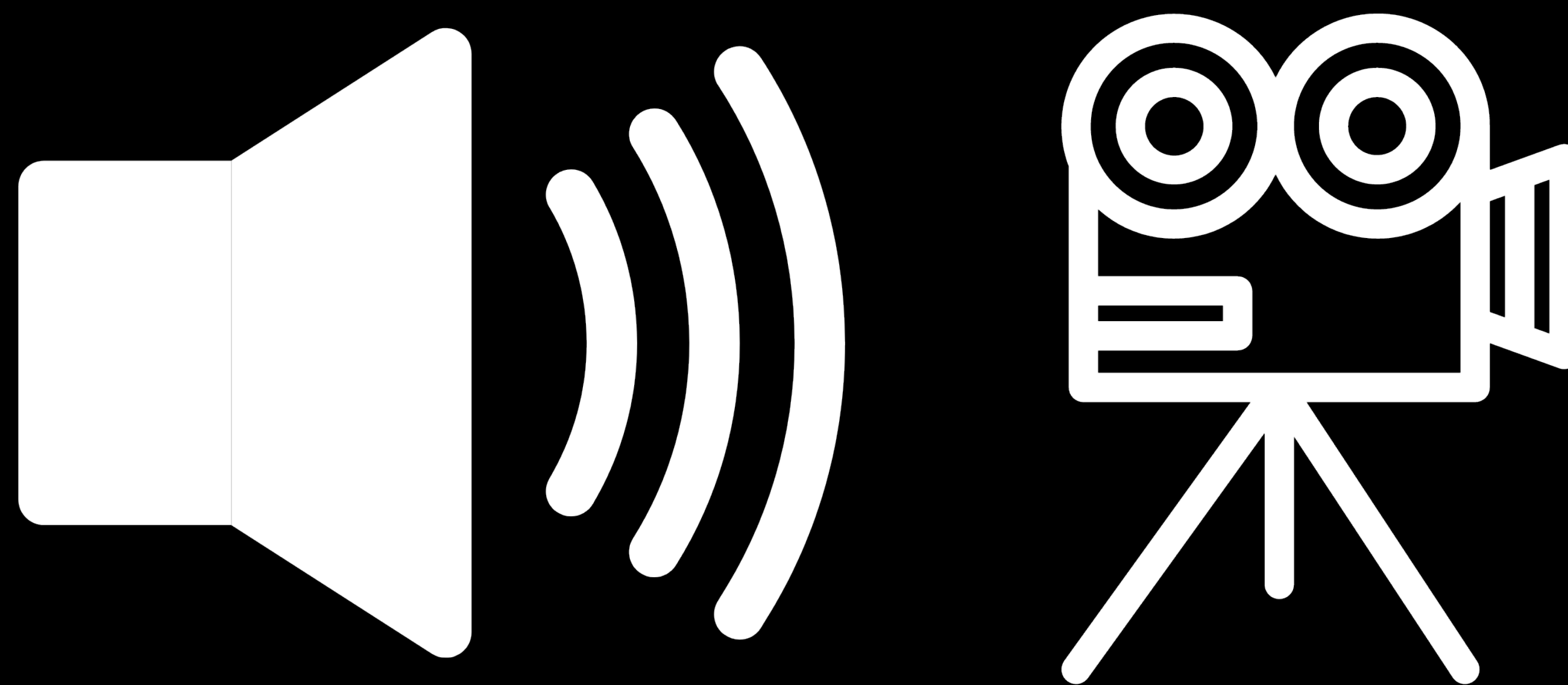
I cannot alleviate your **pain** because ultimately this will help you...

You have no **value** apart from what the wheel
of **samsara** (reincarnation) has allotted you...

Therefore, live, die and hopefully you have **learned** your lesson...

Once you were **dead** because of your **disobedience** and your many sins. You used to **live in sin**, just like the **rest of the world**, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the **spirit at work** in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. [Ephesians 2:1-3](#)

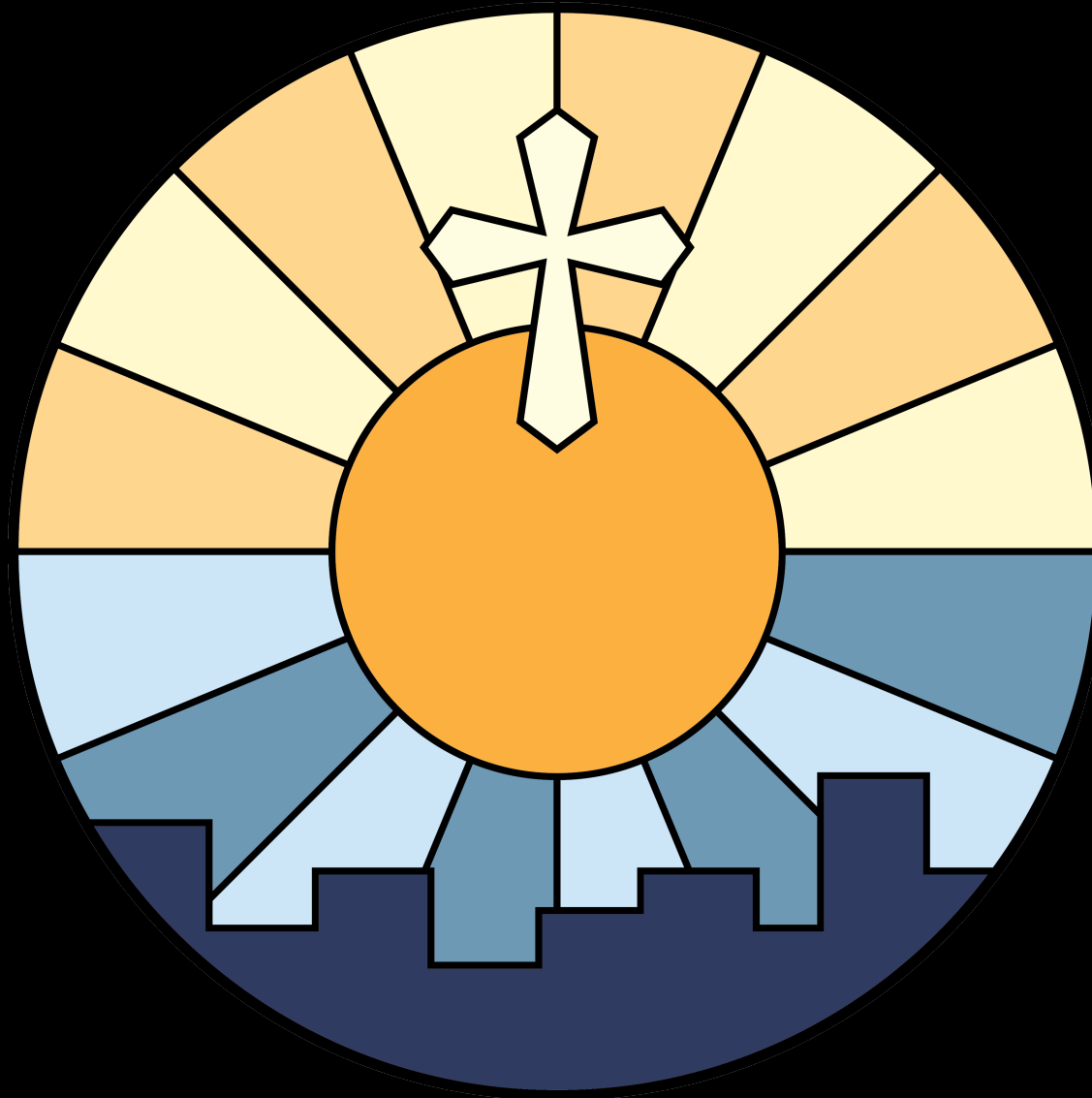
But God is so rich in **mercy**, and he **loved us so much**, that even though we were dead because of our sins, **he gave us life** when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's **grace** that you have been saved!) [Vs 4-5](#)



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